

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PHARMACISTS**

## ***RE: Medicare Part D Plans, RIPAE, and Medicare/Medicaid Beneficiaries***

### **RIPAE Program:**

Please be aware of the following facts regarding members of the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) program:

- ✓ All members who were enrolled in the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) program as of December 31, 2005 are still active members of the RIPAE program
- ✓ RIPAE members can use their card to help pay for qualified prescriptions during the deductible phase of their Part D plan (if the plan has a deductible).
- ✓ RIPAE members can use their card to help them pay for qualified prescriptions during the coverage gap phase of their Part D plan (if the plan has a coverage gap).
- ✓ If you have any questions about RIPAE membership and the benefits of the program, please call BioScrip, RIPAE program pharmacy benefit manager, at **1-800-213-5640**.

**Please make every effort to make sure that RIPAE members receive all eligible benefits.**

### **Dual Eligible Medicare/Medicaid Clients:**

As you may be aware, a number of dually eligible individuals have experienced problems in filling prescriptions. Effective January 12, the following instructions were put in place by the state to assist Pharmacists in filling prescriptions:

**Pharmacists should make every effort to fill the prescription through the Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) by:**

- ✓ Requesting that the beneficiary provide the pharmacy with their PDP card or enrollment letter
- ✓ Submitting the E1 transaction to Medicare's contractor, NDC Health, if the beneficiary does not know their PDP, or does not have a card or PDP assignment letter.
- ✓ Submitting to Medicare's national PDP, Wellpoint, when the E1 transaction returns a message that the beneficiary is not yet enrolled in a PDP **and** they have proof of eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid.

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Pharmacists can bill the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program under the following circumstances:

- ✓ If the prescription is rejecting from the PDP as a non covered medication.
- ✓ If the patient is totally unknown to the PDP and to CMS, but they have dual eligibility.
- ✓ If the copay returned to the pharmacy is **excessive**, beyond \$1 Generic/\$3 Brand or \$2 Generic/\$5 Brand, the excess copay can be billed to the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program.

Beneficiaries continuing to experience difficulty with Medicare Part D program should contact Medicare directly at **1-800-MEDICARE** or *The Point* at **462-4444** for assistance. The State is obligated to defer questions about “Part D”

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Jane Hayward, Secretary  
RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services*

*Corinne Calise Russo, Director  
RI Department of Elderly Affairs*